

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060691  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /024 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY:JKB  
APPROVED BY EUR/WE - EMROWELL  
EUR/P - FSEIDNER  
-----182133Z 121422 /75

O 182048Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON MODESTI ARTICLE

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR USE BY THE  
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON MARCH 18:

BEGIN QUOTE

Q: AN ITALIAN NEWSPAPER HAS PUBLISHED WHAT IT SAYS IS THE  
SUMMARY OF A HIGH-LEVEL POLICY PAPER ON ITALY AND HAS  
INDICATED THAT AN ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN WILL BE MAKING  
A STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT SOON. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US  
ABOUT THIS?

A: I DO NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON THE ITALIAN NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLE. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS STUDYING ITS POLICIES  
ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, AND THERE MAY WELL BE  
OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR AN ADMINISTRATION  
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PAGE 02 STATE 060691

SPOKESMAN TO MAKE STATEMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD.

Q: THEN THERE WILL NOT BE A POLICY STATEMENT TODAY IN  
CONNECTION WITH AMBASSADOR GARDNER'S SWEARING IN?

A: THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q: ARE YOU IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE ITALIAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE?

A: I DO NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON THE PRESS ARTICLE ITSELF.  
END QUOTE.

2. FOR POSTS' INFORMATION ONLY: GERRY MODESTI, THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FOR "LA NAZIONE" OF FLORENCE, WROTE AN ARTICLE FOR THE THURSDAY, MARCH 17, EDITION OF HIS PAPER WHICH CONTAINS AN ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE SUMMARY OF A PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM ON POLICY TOWARD ITALY. SOME OF MODESTI'S SPECULATION ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE MEMORANDUM IS, HOWEVER, OFF BASE. THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO A PUBLIC STATEMENT CONTAINING THE ESSENCE OF OUR NEW POLICY IN CONNECTION WITH AMBASSADOR GARDNER'S SWEARING IN ON FRIDAY, MARCH 18. HOWEVER, IT HAS NOW BEEN DECIDED TO ADDRESS THE SUBJECT IN A MORE GENERAL CONTEXT AT ANOTHER TIME.

3. NO QUESTIONS WERE RAISED AT THE NOON BRIEFING MARCH 18.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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